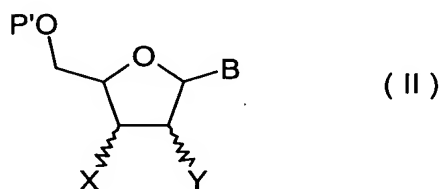


ABSTRACT

A process for preparing 2',3'-didehydro-2',3'-dideoxynucleosides and 2',3'-
5 dideoxynucleosides is described, which comprises the reductive elimination reaction of
a compound of formula



10 in which X, Y, P' and B have the meanings given in the description,

by reaction with zinc metal and a suitable activating agent,

characterized in that the divalent zinc is removed by precipitation, from an organic
15 phase, of the corresponding zinc sulfide, by adding a solution of a mineral sulfide to the
said organic phase.